

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

WHITEVOID GMBH, et al.,
Plaintiffs,

v.

LUX ENTERTAINMENT S.P.A., et al.,
Defendants.

Case No. 3:25-cv-03720-JSC

**ORDER CONVERTING
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION INTO
TRIAL ON THE MERITS UNDER
RULE 65(A)(2)**

Re: Dkt. No. 10

WHITEvoid and its founder, Christopher Bauder, bring copyright infringement, Visual Artists Rights Act (VARA), and conversion claims against Lux Entertainment S.p.A., Lux America Inc., and Balloon Museum USA LLC (collectively “Lux”). On the same day Plaintiffs filed this action, they filed a motion for preliminary injunction seeking to enjoin Defendants from further public exhibition of Plaintiffs’ *Electric Moons* art installation. (Dkt. No. 10.) After the parties stipulated to an extended briefing schedule, the motion came before the Court for hearing on June 26, 2025. For the reasons stated on the record, the Court converts the motion for a preliminary injunction into a jury trial on the merits under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(a)(2). Given Defendants’ admission at oral argument that it does not intend to return the *Electric Moons* exhibit to Plaintiffs at the conclusion of the exhibition in San Francisco, the Court concludes an expedited trial is warranted and thus combines the motion for preliminary injunction with trial of the matter.

Plaintiffs’ copyright and conversion claims turn, at least in part, on the interpretation of the parties’ contract and the parties’ termination and/or breach(es) of the contract. Although both parties agree the contract provides German law governs, neither party has provided the Court sufficient information to decide these issues under German law. *See G & G Prods. LLC v. Rusic*,

902 F.3d 940, 949-50 (9th Cir. 2018) (stating under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 44.1 parties have an “informational duty to the court” to provide “the district court with the information needed to determine the meaning of the foreign law.”). Likewise, the Court cannot resolve the factual questions regarding whether there has been a “modification of [Bauder’s] work which would be prejudicial to his or her honor or reputation” for purposes of his VARA claim on the current record without resolving these liability-related disputes of fact. *See* 17 U.S.C. § 106A(a)(3)(A). While the Court is mindful of Plaintiffs’ allegations of harm, Plaintiffs conceded at oral argument that the harm alleged has been going on “for months” before this action was even filed.

Accordingly, the Court sets a jury trial to commence on August 26, 2025. The procedures governing trial are set forth in the pretrial order below.

PRETRIAL ORDER

I. Referral to Magistrate Judge Cousins

The Court refers the parties to Magistrate Judge Cousins for a settlement conference at a time and place to be set by Judge Cousins in consultation with the parties.

II. Case Management Schedule

The parties shall immediately meet and confer and cooperate in adopting an expedited discovery schedule. For example, they should be able to agree to production of relevant written documents without the need for formal discovery requests. The schedule should include the dates and locations of all depositions. On or before July 9, 2025, the parties shall jointly file with the Court their proposed expedited discovery plan.

III. Trial Date

A. Jury trial will begin August 26, 2025, at 8:00 a.m., in Courtroom 8, 19th Floor, U.S. District Court, 450 Golden Gate, San Francisco, California.

B. The Court is expecting the length of the trial to not exceed 5 court days.

IV. Pretrial Conference

A Final Pretrial Conference shall be held on August 19, 2025 at 2:00 p.m., in Courtroom 8,

19th Floor. Lead trial counsel for each party shall attend.

A. At least seven days prior to date of the Final Pretrial Conference the parties shall do the following:

1. In lieu of preparing a Joint Pretrial Conference Statement, the parties shall meet and confer in person, and then prepare and file a jointly signed Proposed Final Pretrial Order that contains: (a) a brief description of the substance of claims and defenses which remain to be decided; (b) a statement of all relief sought; (c) all stipulated facts; (d) a joint exhibit list in numerical order, including a brief description of the exhibit and Bates numbers, a blank column for when it will be offered into evidence, a blank column for when it may be received into evidence, and a blank column for any limitations on its use; and (e) each party's separate witness list for its case-in-chief witnesses (including those appearing by deposition), including, for all such witnesses (other than party plaintiffs or defendants), a short statement of the substance of his/her testimony and, separately, what, if any, non-cumulative testimony the witness will offer. For each witness, state an hour/minute time estimate for the direct examination (only). Items (d) and (e) should be submitted as appendices to the proposed order. The proposed order should also state which issues, if any, are for the Court to decide, rather than the jury.

2. File a joint set of proposed instructions on substantive issues of law arranged in a logical sequence. If undisputed, an instruction shall be identified as "Stipulated Instruction No. ____ Re _____," with the blanks filled in as appropriate. If disputed, each version of the instruction shall be inserted together, back to back, in their logical place in the overall sequence. Each such disputed instruction shall be identified as, for example, "Disputed Instruction No. ____ Re _____ Offered by _____," with the blanks filled in as appropriate. All disputed versions of the same basic instruction shall bear the same number. Any modifications to a form instruction must be plainly identified. If a party does not have a counter version and simply contends that no such instruction in any version should be given, then that party should so state (and explain why) on a separate page inserted in lieu of an alternate version. With respect to form preliminary instructions, general instructions, or concluding instructions, please simply cite to the numbers of the requested instructions in the current edition

of the Ninth Circuit Model Jury Instructions. Other than citing the numbers, the parties shall not include preliminary, general, or concluding instructions in the packet.

3. File a separate memorandum of law in support of each party's disputed instructions, if any, organized by instruction number.

4. File trial briefs on any controlling issues of law.

5. File proposed verdict forms, joint or separate.

6. File and serve any objections to exhibits.

7. File a joint simplified Statement of the Case to be read to the jury during voir dire as part of the proposed jury instructions. Unless the case is extremely complex, this statement should not exceed one page.

B. Any motions in limine shall be submitted as follows: at least twenty (20) calendar days before the conference, the moving party shall serve, but not file, the opening brief. At least ten (10) calendar days before the conference, the responding party shall serve the opposition. There will be no reply. When the oppositions are received, the moving party should collate the motion and the opposition together, back-to-back, and then file the paired sets at least seven (7) calendar days before the conference. Each motion should be presented in a separate memorandum and properly identified, for example, "Plaintiff's Motion in Limine No. 1 to Exclude" Each party is limited to bringing five motions in limine. The parties are encouraged to stipulate where possible, for example, as to the exclusion of witnesses from the courtroom. Each motion should address a single, separate topic, and contain no more than seven pages of briefing per side.

C. Hard-copy courtesy copies of the above documents shall be delivered by NOON the day after filing. The Joint Proposed Final Pretrial Order, jury instructions, and verdict form shall also be submitted via e-mail as Word attachments to jsc_settlement@cand.uscourts.gov. The Court requests that all hard-copy submissions be three-hole-punched.

V. Pretrial Arrangements

A. Should a daily transcript and/or real-time reporting be desired, the parties shall make arrangements with the Supervisor of the Court Reporting Services, at (415) 522-2079, at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the trial date.

1 B. During trial, counsel may wish to use overhead projectors, laser-disk/computer
2 graphics, poster blow-ups, models, or specimens of devices. Equipment should be shared by all
3 counsel to the maximum extent possible. The Court provides no equipment other than an easel.
4 The United States Marshal requires a court order to allow equipment into the courthouse. For
5 electronic equipment, parties should be prepared to maintain the equipment or have a technician
6 handy at all times. The parties shall tape extension cords to the carpet for safety. The parties may
7 work with the deputy clerk, Ada Means (415-522-2015), on all courtroom-layout issues.

8 SCHEDULING

9 Trial will be conducted from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 or 3:00 p.m., depending on the availability
10 of witnesses. Due to the Labor Day holiday, there will not be trial on Friday, August 29, 2025
11 nor, of course, Labor Day, Monday, September 1, 2025. Counsel must arrive by 8:00 a.m., or
12 earlier as needed, for any matters to be heard out of the presence of the jury. The jury will be
13 called at 8:30 a.m.

14 THE JURY

15 The Jury Office asks prospective jurors to complete an online jury questionnaire in
16 advance of their summons date. The standard questionnaire available on the Northern District's
17 website at [http://www.cand.uscourts.gov/wp-content/uploads/attorneys/Internet-version_Standard-](http://www.cand.uscourts.gov/wp-content/uploads/attorneys/Internet-version_Standard-CAND-Trial_SurveyMonkey_3-2022.pdf)
18 [CAND-Trial_SurveyMonkey_3-2022.pdf](http://www.cand.uscourts.gov/wp-content/uploads/attorneys/Internet-version_Standard-CAND-Trial_SurveyMonkey_3-2022.pdf). The parties are allowed to add 10 case specific
19 questions to the questionnaire. The parties shall meet and confer, and to the extent possible, file a
20 joint list of proposed questions to add to the questionnaire. To the extent that the parties cannot
21 agree, they may submit separate proposed questions from which the Court will choose 10. The
22 parties joint or separate submissions are due 21 days before trial. The Court will provide the
23 parties with the survey responses the Friday before trial.

24 In civil cases, there are no alternate jurors and the jury is selected as follows: Eighteen to
25 twenty jurors are called to fill the jury box and the row in front of the bar, and are given numbers
26 (1 through 20). The remaining potential jurors will be seated in the public benches. Hardship
27 excuses will usually be considered at this point. Counsel may conduct a limited voir dire.
28 Challenges for cause will then be addressed out of the presence of the potential jurors. The Court

will consider whether to fill in the seats of the stricken jurors. If so, questions will be asked of the additional jurors and cause motions as to them will be considered. After a short recess, each side may exercise its allotment of peremptory challenges out of the presence of the potential jurors. The eight (or such other size as will constitute the jury) surviving the challenge process with the lowest numbers become the final jury. If more (or fewer) than eight jurors are to be seated, then the starting number will be adjusted. So too if more than a total of six peremptories are allowed. Once the jury selection is completed, the jurors' names will be read again and they will be seated in the jury box and sworn. The Court may alter this procedure in its discretion and after consultation with the parties.

WITNESSES

At the close of each trial day, all counsel shall exchange a list of witnesses (other than for impeachment) for the next two full court days and the exhibits that will be used during direct examination (other than for impeachment of an adverse witness). Within 24 hours of such notice, all other counsel shall provide any objections to such exhibits and shall provide a list of all exhibits to be used with the same witness on cross-examination (other than for impeachment). The first notice shall be exchanged prior to the first day of trial. All such notices shall be provided in writing.

EXHIBITS

A. Prior to the Final Pretrial Conference, counsel must meet and confer in person to consider all exhibit numbers and objections and to eliminate duplicate exhibits and confusion over the precise exhibit.

B. Use numbers only, not letters, for exhibits, preferably the same numbers as were used in depositions. Blocks of numbers should be assigned to fit the need of the case (e.g., Plaintiff has 1 to 100, Defendant A has 101 to 200, Defendant B has 201 to 300, etc.). A single exhibit should be marked only once. If the plaintiff has marked an exhibit, then the defendant should not re-mark the exact document with another number. Different versions of the same document, e.g., a copy with additional handwriting, must be treated as different exhibits with different numbers. To avoid any party claiming "ownership" of an exhibit, all exhibits shall be

1 marked and referred to as “Trial Exhibit No. _____,” not as “Plaintiff’s Exhibit” or “Defendant’s
2 Exhibit.”

3 C. Exhibits tags: Exhibits must be labeled in the lower right-hand corner with the
4 exhibit number in a prominent, bold typeface.

5 D. Counsel must consult with each other and with the deputy clerk at the end of each
6 trial day and compare notes as to which exhibits are in evidence and any limitations thereon. If
7 there are any differences, counsel should bring them promptly to the Court’s attention.

8 E. The parties shall provide the Court with one official set of the record exhibits seven
9 (7) days before the Pretrial Conference. Each exhibit must be separated with a label divider
10 identifying the exhibit number. Spine labels should indicate the numbers of the exhibits that are in
11 the binders. At trial, the parties shall provide individual witness exhibit binders which contain all
12 the exhibits the parties expect to use with the witness. The parties shall provide two copies of each
13 witness binder: one for the witness and one for the Court.

14 F. Before the closing arguments, counsel must confer with the deputy clerk to make
15 sure the exhibits in evidence are in good order.

16 G. Exhibit notebooks for the jury will not be permitted without prior permission from
17 the Court. Publication must be by poster blow-up, overhead projection, or such other method as is
18 allowed in the circumstances. It is permissible to highlight, circle or underscore in the
19 enlargements as long as it is clear that it was not on the original.

20 21 **CHARGING CONFERENCE**

22 As the trial progresses and the evidence is heard, the Court will fashion a comprehensive
23 set of jury instructions to cover all issues actually being tried. Prior to the close of the evidence,
24 the Court will provide a draft final charge to the parties. After a reasonable period for review, one
25 or more charging conferences will be held at which each party may object to any passage, ask for
26 modifications, or ask for additions. Any instruction request must be renewed specifically at the
27 conference or it will be deemed waived, whether or not it was requested prior to trial. If, however,
28 a party still wishes to request an omitted instruction after reviewing the Court’s draft, then it must

1 affirmatively re-request it at the charging conference in order to give the Court a fair opportunity
2 to correct any error. Otherwise, as stated, the request will be deemed abandoned or waived.

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4 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

5 Dated: June 27, 2025

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8 JACQUELINE SCOTT CORLEY
9 United States District Judge
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